VENGEANCE OF THE
MOON KNIGHT
MARVEL
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FINCH
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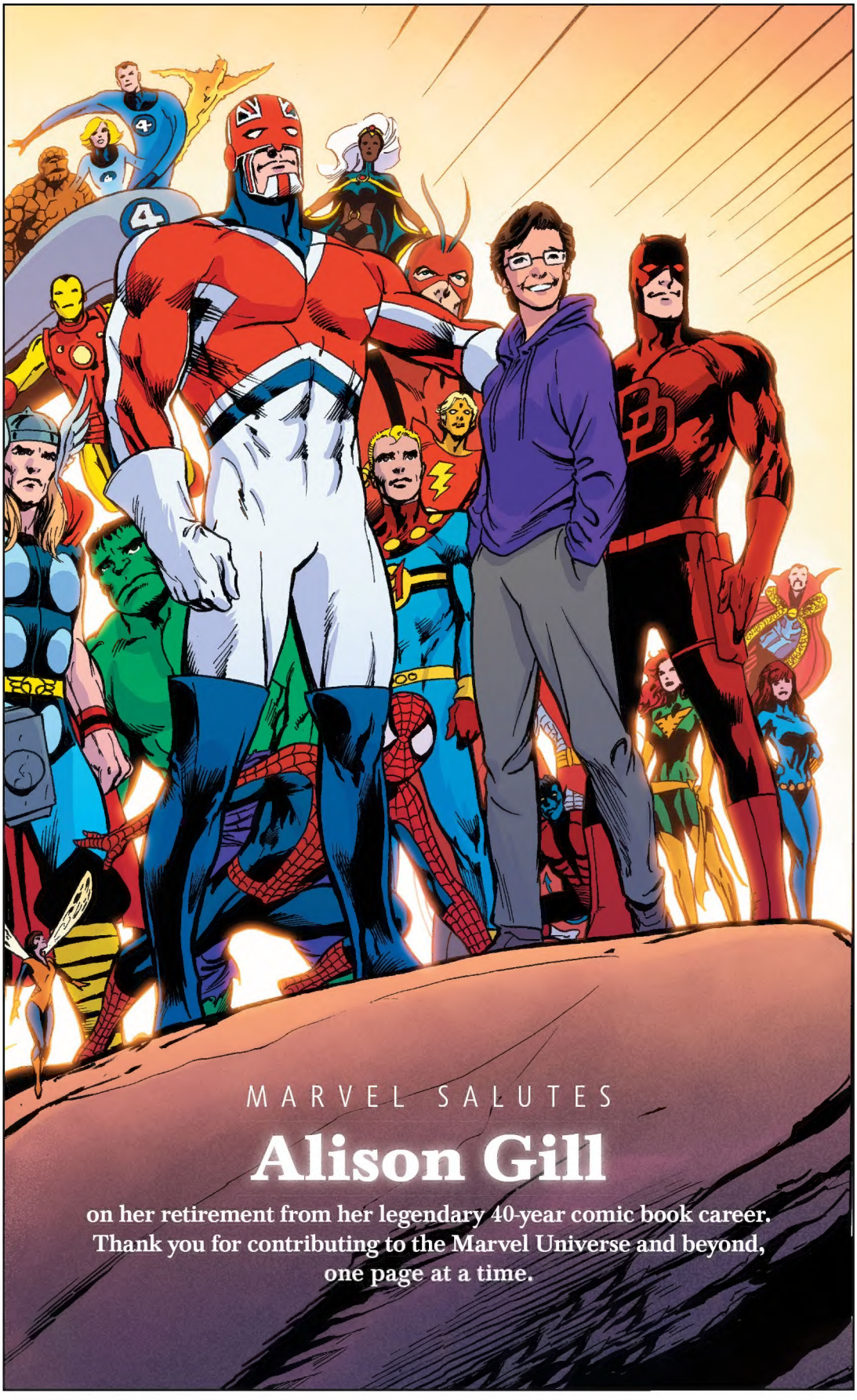
MARVEL SALUTES
Alison Gill
on her retirement from her legendary 40-year comic book career.
Thank you for contributing to the Marvel Universe and beyond,
one page at a time.

MERCENARY MARC SPECTOR DIED AND WAS REBORN IN THE SHADOW OF KHONSHU, THE EGYPTIAN GOD OF THE MOON. SPECTOR BECAME MOON KNIGHT, THE FIST OF KHONSHU, TO FIGHT EVIL. THROUGH HIS MIDNIGHT MISSION, HE WAS THE DEFENDER OF ALL THOSE WHO TRAVEL AT NIGHT.

"REESE"

MOON KNIGHT GATHERED A GROUP OF CLOSE FRIENDS AND ALLIES TO AID HIM IN HIS MISSION, INCLUDING HIS VAMPIRE ASSISTANT, REESE, EX-MERCENARY SOLDIER, FELLOW FIST OF KHONSHU HUNTER'S MOON, REFORMED CRIMINAL 8-BALL AND FORMER TEAMMATE TIGRA.

MOON KNIGHT RECENTLY SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO SAVE ALL OF MANHATTAN FROM THE SUPER VILLAIN BLACK SPECTRE. MOON KNIGHT'S FRIENDS HAVE PLEDGED TO CARRY ON IN HIS ABSENCE AND RUN THE MIDNIGHT MISSION THEMSELVES.

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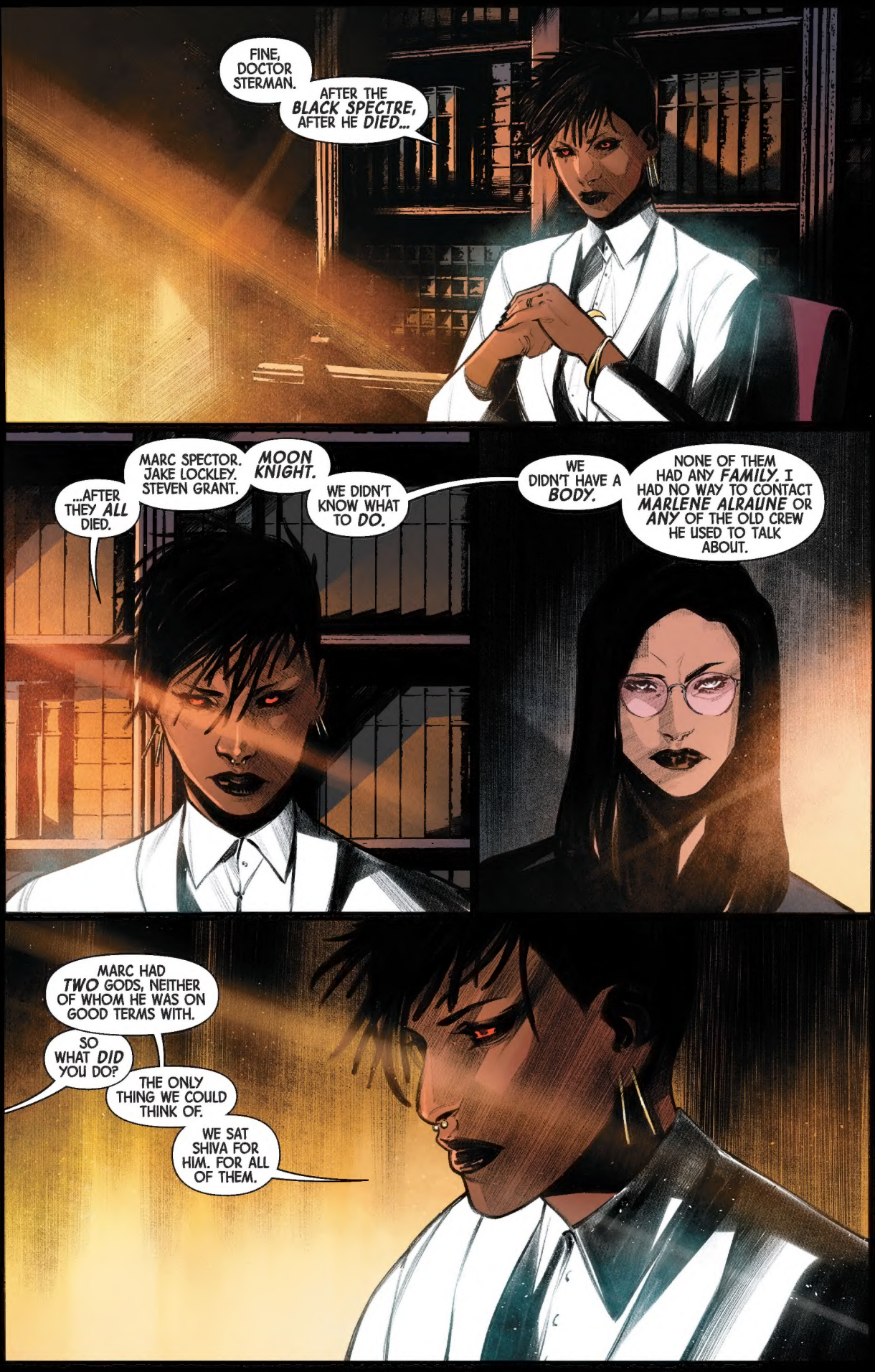
THE MIDNIGHT MISSION.
THEN.
"NO.
"FROM THE BEGINNING, PLEASE."

NOW.
THAT'S HOW THIS WORKS...
...REESE.


FINE, DOCTOR STERMAN.
AFTER THE BLACK SPECTRE, AFTER HE DIED...
...AFTER THEY ALL DIED.
MARC SPECTOR. JAKE LOCKLEY. STEVEN GRANT. MOON KNIGHT.
WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
WE DIDN'T HAVE A BODY.
NONE OF THEM HAD ANY FAMILY. I HAD NO WAY TO CONTACT MARLENE ALRAUNE OR ANY OF THE OLD CREW HE USED TO TALK ABOUT.
MARC HAD TWO GODS, NEITHER OF WHOM HE WAS ON GOOD TERMS WITH.
SO WHAT DID YOU DO?
THE ONLY THING WE COULD THINK OF.
WE SAT SHIVA FOR HIM. FOR ALL OF THEM.

"IT SEEMED LIKE THE *RIGHT THING.*"
I APPRECIATE THIS, YOU COMING TO HELP.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHO TO CALL, AND YOU ALWAYS SENT A *CARD...*
...MR. GRIMM.
WHATEVER I CAN DO, KID.
I BROUGHT SOME FOOD.
AW, WOULDJA LOOK AT *THAT.*
HAPPY HANUKKAH

C'MERE, GREER.
HOW YOU HOLDIN' UP?
NOT GREAT, BEN.
THANKS FOR COMING.
LEAST I COULD DO.
WHEN WAS THE FUNERAL? DID I MISS IT? WHO WAS THE SHOMER?
WE DIDN'T HAVE A BODY, SO THERE WASN'T A *SHEMIRA*.
AND MARC NEVER WANTED A FUNERAL. HE WAS PRETTY CLEAR ON THAT.
BUT YOU WANT A SHIVA?
YEAH.
THIS IS ABOUT THE ***MISSION***. ***THIS*** IS WHAT HE WANTED TO LIVE ***ON***, WHAT HE CHARGED ***ME*** WITH, ***ALL*** OF US.
THE MIDNIGHT MISSION ***MEANS*** SOMETHING TO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE AROUND HERE, MR. GRIMM.
THE TRAVELERS AT NIGHT NEED A PLACE TO GRIEVE.
AND TO KNOW THAT THE MISSION GOES ***ON***.
THAT THEY'RE STILL ***SAFE***.

MR. GRIMM--BEN--WAS GREAT.
HE ARRANGED EVERYTHING. ORGANIZED THE PRAYERS. BROUGHT FOOD.
"WHICH WAS, UH, A NICE GESTURE."
"DIETARY REQUIREMENTS"? WHO DOESN'T LIKE A CASSEROLE?
ER, I'M A...UH...
...I'M A VAMPIRE, MR. GRIMM.
OH! SORRY, KID.
THIS THEY DON'T TEACH YOU IN HEBREW SCHOOL...
HE LIT THE CANDLE, COVERED THE MIRRORS.
HE MADE SURE THE OTHER HEROES KNEW TO COME AND PAY THEIR RESPECTS.

"AND FOR A GUY WHO SAID HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS...
"...A LOT OF PEOPLE CAME TO SAY GOODBYE TO MOON KNIGHT."

WHICH WAS GOOD.
SITTING SHIVA, WE COULDN'T GO OUT AND DO THE WORK. NOT FOR SEVEN DAYS.
"SO THEY PICKED UP THE SLACK.
EXIT 7
E 23 St
MILE
"BUT IT WASN'T JUST THE HEROES.
"IT WAS THE PEOPLE WE LOOK OUT FOR.
"MARC LIKED TO TALK ABOUT 'TERRITORY.' BUT IT WAS JAKE WHO ALWAYS GAVE THE GAME AWAY.
"THE MIDNIGHT MISSION WAS ALWAYS ABOUT THE PEOPLE."
AND WHEN IT WAS OVER?

WHEN IT WAS OVER?
"WHEN IT WAS OVER, IT WAS TIME TO GO TO *WORK.*"
LET'S GET THAT BLOOD.

SO.
ARE *YOU* CALLING YOURSELF MOON KNIGHT NOW?
ME? PLEASE.
DON'T GET IT TWISTED. I DON'T THINK I'M A FIST OF KHONSHU. I DON'T THINK I'M A SUPER HERO.
BUT I'VE GOT A *JOB* TO DO. ONE I *INHERITED.*
REESE, YOU'VE DROPPED OUT OF COLLEGE.
YOU'RE 19 YEARS OLD. IS THIS HOW YOU SHOULD BE SPENDING YOUR LIFE?
YEAH.
I QUIT COLLEGE TO RUN THE MIDNIGHT MISSION. AND WHY SHOULDN'T I?
ARE YOU FORGETTING, DR. STERMAN?
I'M A VAMPIRE. I'M GOING TO BE 19 FOREVER.

"I DON'T HAVE A LIFE TO WASTE.
"BUT I HAVE PLENTY OF UNLIFE AHEAD OF ME."
STEP LIVELY!
PASSAGE OUT OF THE DUNGEON DIMENSION WASN'T CHEAP, AND WE HAVE DEBTS TO PAY!
WE ARE BEHIND SCHEDULE, MR. SULK.
INDEED, MR. SMILE.
BEST STEP UP PROCUREMENT.
INDEED, MR. SULK.
NAH.
ONLY STEPPING YOU TWO ARE GOING TO DO IS BACK TO WHERE YOU CAME FROM.
THIS IS MIDNIGHT MISSION TERRITORY.

ROOM FOR TWO MORE, MR. SMILE?
OH, MR. SULK...
...THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR TWO MORE!
BOOOM
BULLETPROOF, REESE--
YAAAAA!!!
SEEMS LIKE HE DOESN'T EXACTLY ENJOY IT, SOLDIER--
EH?

YEAH, WELL.
TWELVE-GAUGE SLUG, I'D EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO SEE *THROUGH* HIM BY NOW.
CHOK-CHK
WELL, LET'S SEE HOW THIS ONE LIKES *NOT BREATHING*--
GAKKK!
BOOOM
IF *FOUR MORE* DON'T PUT HIM DOWN, WE'VE GOT *PROBLEMS*, REESE.

A--
--A--
--AAAAA--
--CHOOOO!
WHAT THE HELL--?
YES, INDEED!
HELL.
WE'RE DEMONS, SWEETLING.
WHAT'S A LITTLE VAMPIRE MIST TO A SET OF WHEEZERS USED TO THE LAKES OF SULFUR AND FLAME?
HE IS CORRECT.
THERE IS ONLY ONE THING A DEMON FEARS, CHILDREN.

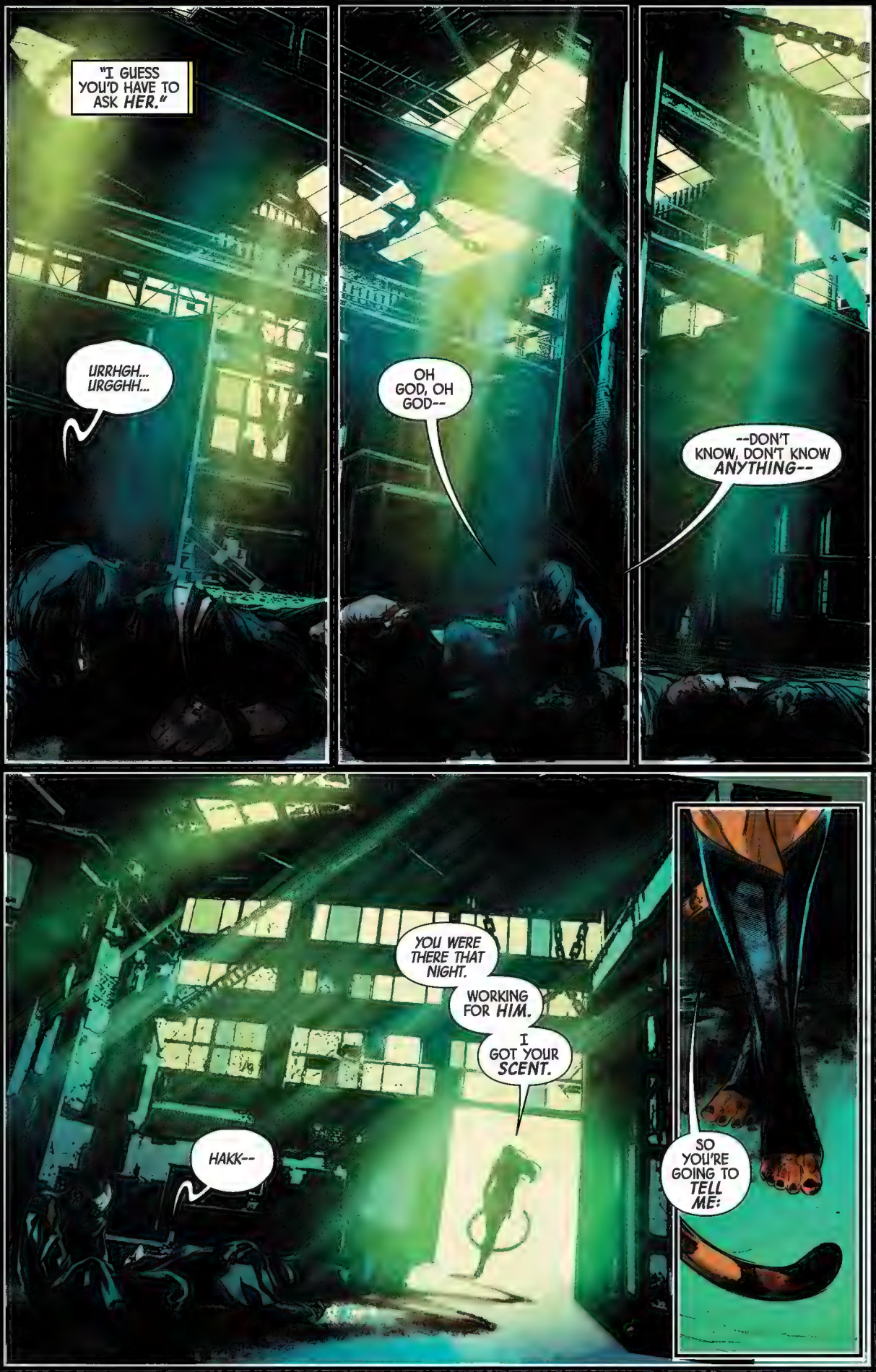
A PRIEST.

oh
no.
KHONSHU.
GREATEST OF THE GREAT GODS.
YOU WHO ARE CALLED TRAVELER.
EMBRACER.
PATHFINDER.
DEFENDER OF THOSE WHO TRAVEL AT NIGHT.

NO! NO!
NOT AN EXORCISM!
THERE ARE UNCLEAN THINGS CASTING SHADOWS IN YOUR LIGHT...
...AND THEY MUST BE EXPUNGED.
NOOOOOO
NOT THE DUNGEON DIMENSION AGAAIINNN--
THANK YOU, FATHER.

YOU'VE GOT TO TEACH ME THAT ONE, HUNTER'S MOON.
OH? YOU WISH TO BE INVESTED AS AN ANOINTED PRIESTESS OF KHONSHU?
EXCELLENT. I WILL TEACH YOU THE OATHS OF PIETY, BEGIN YOUR STUDY OF THE SACRED TEXTS--
ERR. YOU KNOW WHAT? NEVER MIND.
HRMPH.
THANK--
THANK YOU--
YOU SAID MIDNIGHT MISSION...
...WHICH OF YOU IS MOON KNIGHT?

YOU'VE TALKED ABOUT WHAT COMPELS YOU TO CARRY ON MOON KNIGHT'S WORK.
DUTY.
SURE.
SAME AS *SOLDIER* AND *HUNTER'S MOON*.
AND GREER NELSON?
TIGRA?
WELL.


"I GUESS YOU'D HAVE TO ASK HER."
URRHGH... URGGHH...
OH GOD, OH GOD--
--DON'T KNOW, DON'T KNOW ANYTHING--
YOU WERE THERE THAT NIGHT.
WORKING FOR HIM.
I GOT YOUR SCENT.
HAKK--
SO YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME:

WHERE IS THE BLACK SPECTRE?

I--
I DON'T KNOW!
NO ONE KNOWS!
WRONG ANSWER.
YO, T.
CHILL OUT.
REESE.
I'M WORKING.
OH WORD?
SO THIS ISN'T PERSONAL?
OUR WORK IS ALWAYS PERSONAL.

YOU THINK THIS IS WHAT MARC WANTED?
THIS IS THE KIND OF WORK HE WAS TRYING TO LEAVE BEHIND.
IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER WHAT MARC WANTED, REESE.
HE'S DEAD.
AND I'M THE ONLY ONE TRYING TO GET THE MAN WHO KILLED HIM.
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO SEEMS TO FEEL ANYTHING REAL ABOUT HIM BEING GONE!
YOU'RE UPSET. SO I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU THAT ONE FOR FREE.
COPS ARE ALMOST HERE, SO I FIGURE YOU AND I WANT TO GET GONE.

IS SHE WRONG THOUGH?
THE WAY YOU SEEM TO BE PROCESSING THIS GRIEF--OR RATHER, NOT PROCESSING IT--DOES SEEM VERY CONCERNING TO ME, REESE.
LOOK.
I'VE LOST PEOPLE.
BUT THIS IS THE FOURTH TIME MARC SPECTOR HAS DIED BY MY COUNT, AND HE CERTAINLY NEVER TOLD ME EVERYTHING.
"WHEN HE DIED, I CRIED.
"I CRIED SO HARD I WEPT BLOOD."
BUT I SAW HUNTER'S MOON, WHEN MARC BROUGHT HIM BACK TO THE MISSION, DURING THE STRUCTURE THING. AND HE WAS DEAD AS HELL.
AND NOW? HE'S BACK OUT ON THE STREETS, ONLY A LITTLE CRAZIER THAN HE WAS BEFORE.
MARC SPECTOR IS MOON KNIGHT. AND MOON KNIGHT IS A FIST OF KHONSHU.
AND THE FISTS OF KHONSHU DON'T DIE.

"YOU THINK HE WILL BE RESURRECTED, REESE?
"ISN'T THAT IMPOSSIBLE, WITH KHONSHU IMPRISONED?"
"THEN WE'LL KICK DOWN ASGARD'S DOORS AND TAKE HIM BACK, IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES.
"BUT THAT BRINGS US TO WHAT I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT.
"8-BALL, DR. STERMAN."
"GOD, 8-BALL. I ALWAYS FORGET ABOUT HIM."
"EVERYONE DOES, DOCTOR.

"MOON KNIGHT GAVE 8-BALL A SECOND CHANCE.
"AND HE'S MADE THE *MOST* OF IT.
"THERE'S NO ZEALOT LIKE A CONVERT, RIGHT?
"BUT NOT EVERYONE SEES IT THE SAME WAY.
"ONCE A SUPER VILLAIN, ALWAYS A SUPER VILLAIN, RIGHT?
"BUT HE'S ONE OF *US.* HE'S PART OF THE *MIDNIGHT MISSION.*"

...WHERE THE HELL IS 8-BALL?
...SUPPOSED TO BE HERE TEN MINUTES...
CRASH

...GOT ME, COULDN'T GET AWAY, TIGRA...
GIVE ME SPACE, PLEASE.
I NEED TO ASSESS HIS WOUNDS.
...COULDN'T BE HIM, COULD IT?
VAMPIRES. SUPER VILLAINS.
IN MY TERRITORY.
IN MY HOUSE.

I DIDN'T COME TO YOU FOR GRIEF COUNSELING.
I DIDN'T COME TO YOU TO TELL ME WHETHER OR NOT YOU THINK MARC ACTUALLY *WILL* COME BACK TO LIFE.
I CAME TO YOU BECAUSE I'M *AFRAID.*
AFRAID THAT MARC *WON'T* COME BACK?
NO.
I'M AFRAID THAT HE MAY ALREADY *HAVE.*
BUT *WRONG.*

"BECAUSE I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THE MOON KNIGHT I SAW THAT NIGHT."
I'M MOON KNIGHT.
GET OUT OF MY HOUSE.

NEXT:

VENGEANCE OF THE MOON KNIGHT

FIST OF KHONSHU VERSUS FIST OF KHONSHU AS MOON KNIGHT BRINGS THE FIGHT TO THE MIDNIGHT MISSION--BUT WHAT COULD DRIVE BROTHERS TO BATTLE? AND WITH THE MISSION A BATTLEGROUND, WHAT OF THOSE WHO SEEK AID?

EMAIL US AT MHEROES@MARVEL.COM AND MARK YOUR MESSAGES *"OKAY TO PRINT"* FOR A CHANCE TO SEE THEM ANSWERED IN FUTURE ISSUES!